

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)      A reclosable bag, comprising:
  - (a)      a bag portion having panes and defining a bag interior and a bag opening, the bag opening being configured to be selectively opened and closed;
  - ~~(b)      a means for opening and closing said bag opening, said means comprising:~~
    - ~~—— (i) opposed interlocking features along said bag opening, said interlocking features being sized and shaped to form a seal when engaged; and~~
    - ~~—— (ii) a slider in said bag opening, between said opposed interlocking features, to engage and disengage said interlocking features as said slider moves, said slider being further configured to seal said bag opening when positioned at one end of said bag opening;~~
  - ~~(b) (e)    an element located at an edge of said bag, and between two panes of said bag, said element having a passageway extending between said bag interior and an outside area in said slider, to provide access between said bag interior and an area outside of said bag; and~~
  - ~~(c) (d)    a valve means for selectively opening and closing said passageway when said opening is closed; wherein, upon moving said slider to said end of said bag opening and sealing said bag opening, access may be selectively provided between said bag interior and said area outside of said bag through said passageway.~~
2. (Currently Amended)      The reclosable bag according to claim 1, wherein said valve means ~~for opening and closing the passageway~~ is a one-way valve.
3. (Original)      The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is configured to allow access into said bag interior from said outside area, and to block access from

said bag interior to said outside area.

4. (Original) The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is configured to allow access to said outside area from said bag interior, and to block access from said outside area to said bag interior.

5. (Original) The reclosable bag according to claim 4, wherein said passageway is configured to accept the coupling of a suction device, to permit access to said bag interior upon the application of suction by said suction device.

6. (Original) The reclosable bag according to claim 5, wherein said passageway is sized and shaped to accept a removable suction device.

7. (Original) The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is one of: a ball valve, pinching valve, flapper valve, air valve, or check valve.

Claims 8-22 (Canceled).

23. (New) The reclosable bag of claim 1, wherein the bag further comprises a means to open and close said bag opening, said means for opening and closing said bag opening comprising opposed interlocking features along said bag opening, said interlocking features being sized and shaped to form a seal when engaged; said element comprising a slider in said bag opening, between said opposed interlocking features, to engage and disengage said interlocking features as

said slider moves.

24. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider has opposed side faces, each of said side faces being configured to slidably engage with one of said opposed interlocking features along said bag opening.

25. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 24, wherein one of said opposed interlocking features comprises a tongue and the other of said opposed interlocking features comprises a groove, and said side face which slidably engages with said interlocking tongue feature contains a groove, and said side face which slidably engages with said interlocking groove feature contains a tongue.

26. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider has a shape which is complementary to the shape of an end of said bag opening, to permit said slider to seal against said end of said bag opening.

29. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider contains a first detent, and said bag contains a second detent positioned proximate to said end of said bag opening, said first detent and said second detent being configured to engage one another when said slider is moved to a sealed position.

30. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 29, wherein said first detent and said second detent are raised portions configured to produce a snap fit when said slider is moved to

said sealed position.

31. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said valve is a two- way valve.

32. (New) The reclosable bag according to claim 1, wherein said element is located between two edges of said bag that do not define said bag opening.

33. (New) A slider for opening and closing a bag opening of a bag, wherein the bag opening has opposed interlocking features, said slider comprising a movable body in said bag opening, between said opposed interlocking features, to engage and disengage said interlocking features as said body moves, the slider further including:

(a) a passageway in said body, to provide access between an interior of said bag and an area outside of said bag; and

(b) a means for selectively opening and closing said passageway;  
wherein, access may be selectively provided between said bag interior and said area outside of said bag through said passageway.

34. (New) The slider according to claim 33, wherein said means for selectively opening and closing comprises a one-way valve, said one-way valve being configured to allow access either:

(a) from said outside area to said bag interior, and to block access from said bag interior to said outside area; or

(b) from said bag interior to said outside area, and to block access from said outside area to said bag interior.

35. (New) A method of closing a bag, said bag having a reclosable opening with a first end and a second end, said method comprising (a) moving a slider positioned within said reclosable opening from said first end to said second end, to close said reclosable opening; (b) engaging said slider at said second end to seal said reclosable opening; and (c) providing access between an interior of said bag and an area outside of said bag through a passageway in said slider, the passageway having a valve, by inserting a hollow tube into said passageway, said tube having an insertion end for insertion into said passageway, and a free end.

36. (New) A method of closing a bag according to claim 35, wherein said bag contains contents, further including the steps of:

- (a) applying suction to said free end, to remove said contents of said bag; and
- (b) removing said hollow tube from said passageway.